

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A process for sterilizing objects in a sterilization chamber in which a vacuum prevails, in which sterilization chamber a vapor ~~vapour~~ mix consisting of water steam and hydrogen peroxide steam is ~~fed~~ rapidly expanded without the use of carrier gas such that the vapor mix cools to below the hydrogen peroxide dew point, the said vapor ~~vapour~~ mix being deposited in the form of a condensate layer abruptly on the surfaces of the objects to be sterilized and on the surfaces of the sterilization chamber, ~~whereafter~~ wherein the condensate layer is heated up by the released evaporation enthalpy, and wherein the condensate layer is subsequently sucked out immediately thereafter by ~~means of~~ further evacuation of the sterilization chamber, wherein at least one of the surfaces of the objects to be sterilized and the sterilization chamber are pre-heated to a pre-determined temperature.

2. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the surfaces are pre-heated by means of installed heating devices.

3. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the surfaces are pre-heated with warm air.

4. (previously presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein a regulated sterile air current supplies the warm air.

5. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the entire sterilization chamber is pre-heated.

6. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein individual areas of the sterilization chamber are intentionally pre-heated.

7. (previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the objects are pre-heated before they are guided into the sterilization chamber.

8. (currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the objects are subject to a ~~rapid-acting~~ hot air current after the condensate layer has been sucked out.